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DRAFTED BY ARA:FMCNEIL:JD
APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
DOD/ISA:ADM. SCHULLER (SUBS)
S/S-O:TGMARTIN

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO AMBASSADOR CASTRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AR, SHUM

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS

1. THE SECRETARY HAS WRITTEN TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RESPONDING TO HIS CONCERN THAT WE NEED TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE TIME AND FLEXIBILITY REMAINING BEFORE THE OCTOBER 1 LEGISLATIVE CUTOFF OF ARMS SALES TO ARGENTINA TO PERSUADE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

2. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, BUT THESE ARE OUTWEIGHED BY THE CONTINUING DISAPPEARANCES. IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION AND THE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN OUR POLICY ON ARMS TRANSFERS TO ARGENTINA, WE HAVE DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST AT THIS TIME NOT TO

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GO AHEAD WITH THE PENDING ARMS TRANSFER CASES AND NOT TO GRANT THE ARGENTINE REQUEST TO PURCHASE TRAINING.

3. INSTEAD, THE SECRETARY HAS AUTHORIZED SENDING A SMALL TEAM OF SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND SENIOR U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS TO MEET, IN CONJUNCTION WITH YOU, AT A HIGH LEVEL WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN THAT BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN ARGENTINA, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ACT FAVORABLY ON THE LARGE NUMBER OF ARMS TRANSFER CASES THAT HAS ACCUMULATED OR THE ARGENTINE REQUEST TO PURCHASE TRAINING, AND THAT ONLY SUBSTANTIAL AUTHENTIC HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS IN ARGENTINA WOULD PERMIT US TO APPROVE THESE TRANSFERS OR THE TRAINING. THE TEAM WOULD INFORM THE ARGENTINES THAT IF THEY CURTAIL THE IRREGULAR DETENTION AND ABDUCTION PRACTICES USED BY THE SECURITY FORCES, AND ESTABLISH AND MEET A SCHEDULE FOR CHARGING AND TRYING -- OR RELEASING -- THOSE HELD UNDER EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, WE WILL RESPOND IN A CALIBRATED AND SEQUENTIAL FASHION, AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS OCCUR, WITH APPROVALS OF THE PENDING MATTERS. DEPENDING UPON ARGENTINA'S RESPONSE TO THE FOREGOING, THE TEAM MAY HAVE AUTHORITY TO INDICATE APPROVAL OF SOME OF THE PENDING CASES.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

Change to

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny (☒) Declassify

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Declassify after

With concurrence of:

IPS by AS obtained not obt.
Date 11-30-46

Declassified Case: 17X-57067 Date: 06-05-2013

4. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH DEFENSE ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF A TEAM. OUR TENTATIVE THINKING IS THAT IN ORDER TO KEEP THE TEAM SECRET OR, AT THE LEAST, AT A LOW VISIBILITY, IT SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE HEADED BY ONE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PRINCIPALS BUT RATHER BY A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY. IN REQUESTING THAT THE ARGENTINE LEADERSHIP RECEIVE THE TEAM, WE WOULD

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MAKE CLEAR THAT IT CAME AT THE EXPRESS WISHES OF THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE. THE ARGENTINE LEADERSHIP'S PROGRESSIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD CUP REQUIRES THAT THE MISSION GO SOON, IF IT IS TO GO. WE ARE TENTATIVELY THINKING OF SENDING THEM AS SOON AS THE 10TH OR ALTERNATIVELY, ANYTIME IN THE PERIOD MAY 17 - 25.

5. WITHOUT CONSULTING THE ARGENTINES, PLEASE GIVE US IMMEDIATELY YOUR VIEWS ON HOW WE MIGHT BEST PROCEED, KEEPING THIS CABLE TO THE MOST LIMITED DISTRIBUTION WITHIN YOUR MISSION. CHRISTOPHER

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